

## Though the fig tree does not blossom

*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord I will be joyful in God my Saviour. Habakkuk 3:17, 18*

Right from the beginning of this month I have been constantly going back to this verse. It is simply so amazing that in spite of everything going wrong in our lives we could still be joyful and we could yet sing! That is one of the choicest blessings of being part of the family of God. This is our inheritance. Many of us have a very one sided definition of blessings as simply material gifts. I have heard people testify that God blessed me and most often it simply means material blessings. But read the verse again. Prophets who are so close to God's heart say almost the opposite

This verse translated to our age will mean even if I do not have a bank balance, even if I do not have a house of my own, even if my business is ruined, even if I am unsuccessful, even if I am alone(no one wants to live with such a failure) YET WILL I REJOICE IN THE LORD.

Where do we get this supreme assurance of peace and joy? Simply in knowing that no matter what God's eyes are on us and God cares for us. . The purpose of blessing in our lives is to make us happy. Yeah that is why people say I am blessed with a job that pays me a fat pay check. So how can sorrow and failure make us joyful or make us rejoice. That is, when God alone is our source of joy. I remember a quote from C.S. Lewis where he says God whispers in pleasure but shouts to us when we are in pain. How true! How clearly have we heard God's voice when we were lying slashed in pain? When we get closer to God then the whole concept of blessing changes. We would say "Lord let me just be with you, come what may whatever pain, whatever betrayal, whatever failure, let me just stay close to you." We only long for the intimacy that is not based on any physical, emotional, spiritual standards of this world. That is why every devastation in the eyes of the world will be our joy because God is so close to me and so I rejoice. This is the reason why martyrs have chosen death instead of betraying Jesus. It is because of the joy they have in the Lord. Martyrs though it sounds very big are just ordinary people who longed the

presence of the Lord and enjoyed it so much that even death, persecution, torture did not have power over the overwhelming love of Jesus that is poured forth in their hearts.

So if all your circumstances are negative when compared to the 'accomplishments and achievements' of your people, do not lose heart. God is calling that you edge closer to Him. Take hold of His garment, rejoice in Him and everything else will fall in its place in God's own time. Then the Sovereign Lord will make our feet like the deer's and take us to the high places. (Hab 3, 19)

Dear Jesus, give me a grateful heart for all the pain, the betrayal, the losses, the tears, the valleys of my life and help me rejoice in all that has brought me close to your heart Lord. Help me see the blessing of your intimacy through my tears and let me rejoice for the rainbows you shine through that. Amen.